

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 IOE-00
ISO-00 L-03 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10
SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 DHA-02 OIC-02 /101 W
-----071647Z 103823 /44

P R 071612Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1531
INFO USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10306

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNESCO, AORG
SUBJECT: US PROPOSAL FOR DUE PROCESS INVESTIGATIVE
MECHANISM

REF: PARIS 10197

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR VALERY PAID CALL ON PERMREP TO DISCUSS IN MORE DETAIL US INITIATIVE. VALERY SAID THAT HE HAD READ CAREFULLY OUR SHORT TEXT, BUT WANTED TO KNOW MORE OF US THRUST. WE EXPLAINED TO HIM NATURE OF US INITIATIVE STRESSING NEED TO MOVE TOWARD DEVELOPING MECHANISM WHICH WOULD DEFUSE POLITICAL ISSUES. WE RECALLED ILO EXPERIENCE AND SUGGESTED VALERY MIGHT STUDY THAT MODEL. WE ALSO GAVE FULL ACCOUNT OF DOMESTIC US PRESSURES TO MOVE FORWARD AND TO KEEP MOMENTUM OF NAIROBI. WE STRESSED THAT OUR PLAN WAS TO INTRODUCE A CONCEPT TO THE 102ND BOARD, WHICH COULD THEN BE STUDIED AND ENLARGED UPON OR CHANGED. WE SAID WE HOPED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT OUR INITIATIVE AND WE WOULD
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WELCOME SUGGESTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS.

2. VALERY SAID THAT HE SAW MANY PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WITH ANY PLAN WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE POWER OF THE EXISTING UNESCO ORGANS. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE CONCEPT WAS DESIRABLE AND THAT HE HAD BEEN TOYING WITH THE IDEA OF PROPOSING THAT THE DRAFTING AND NEGOTIATING GROUP, OF

WHICH HE WAS A MEMBER, BE MADE A PERMANENT UNESCO ORGAN TO FUNCTION BETWEEN GENERAL CONFERENCES. HE SAID EXTENSION OF THIS MECHANISM WHICH HAD WORKED SO WELL MIGHT BE A BETTER WAY OF PROCEEDING. VALERY ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH HIS DELEGATION AND SUPERIORS ON OUR INITIATIVE AND LOOKED FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE DISCUSSION WHEN WE ADDRESSED THE NINE NEXT WEEK.

3. PERMREP AGAIN STRESSED THAT OUR GOAL WAS TO SEEK OUT EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS INTEREST IN OUR PROPOSAL AND THAT WE HOPED FOR THEIR SUPPORT, ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS. WE LOOKED FORWARD TO A CONSTRUCTIVE COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO DEVELOP MECHANISMS WHICH WOULD KEEP POLITICAL CONFRONTATIONS OUT OF UNESCO.

4. VALERY THEN SAID HE WONDERED IF THE DG SHOULD BE GIVEN SO MUCH POWER, I.E. TO SELECT MEMBERS OF SUCH A COMMITTEE. HE SAID HE WOULD PREFER EFFORTS TO LESSEN THE ROLE OF THE SECRETARIAT IN THESE ISSUES RATHER THAN FURTHER STRENGTHENING IT.

5. VALERY SAID HE SAW NO PROBLEM IN OUR RAISING THE INITIATIVE UNDER THE EXISTING BOARD AGENDA ITEM AT THE 102ND BOARD, ALTHOUGH HE WONDERED IF, GIVEN ITS SCOPE, IT SHOULD NOT BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AT LATER BOARD SESSIONS. VALERY SAID HIS

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INFO USMISSION USUN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 10306

EXPRESSED VIEWS SHOULD BE LOOKED UPON AS PERSONAL AT THIS TIME.

6. LATER PERMREP CALLED ON AMB. VAN USSEL (BELGIUM) TO DISCUSS INITIATIVE WITH HIM. VAN USSEL EXPRESSED OVERALL AGREEMENT WITH OUR IDEA AND SAID HE WOULD SEE NO PROBLEM IN OUR PRESENTING IT TO THE BOARD. HE DID EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE US INITIATIVE WOULD NOT CHALLENGE THE EXISTENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH NOW HANDLES HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS UNDER THE CONVENTION. VAN USSEL IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE AND DOES NOT WANT TO THREATEN ITS EXISTENCE. WE ASSURED HIM THAT OUR INITIATIVE WAS MUCH BROADER AND LOOKED FORWARD TO DEVELOPING A MECHANISM WHICH WOULD DIFFUSE POLITICAL ISSUES BEFORE THEY REACHED UNESCO POLITICAL ORGANS. VANUSSEL SEEMED ASSURED AND SAID HE WOULD CAREFULLY STUDY OUR PROPOSAL AND PERHAPS HAVE SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS WHICH WOULD HELP IT ALONG.

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7. COMMENT: INITIAL REACTION SEEMS POSITIVE TO THE SUBSTANTIVE IDEAS OF THE PROPOSAL WITHOUT GIVING OUT-RIGHT APPROVAL AT THIS TIME. SO FAR THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY CONCERN RAISED ABOUT OUR INTRODUCING IT IN A STATEMENT BEFORE THE 102ND BOARD.
GAMMON

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